

Message Text

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71-62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7641

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MORG BF

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER ON DEFENSE FORCE

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING ON THE MONTHLY "CONTACT" PROGRAM
DECEMBER 15, PRIME MINISTER PINDLING AGAIN STRESSED THAT
NEW DEFENSE FORCE WILL BE AN EXPANSION OF PRESENT MARINE
POLICE RATHER THAN AN ARMY. IN ADDITION TO MARITIME
PATROL DUTIES, HE SAID, THE FORCE WILL MAN THE COUNTRY'S
LIGHTHOUSES AND PERFORM TASKS NOW CARRIED OUT BY BAHAMAS
AIR SEA RESCUE ASSOCIATION. WHILE REFUSING TO SPECIFY
THE ITEMS THE \$5.2 MILLION CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR
DEFENSE IN THE 1976 BUDGET WOULD BE SPENT ON, HE DID SAY
THAT A "PRIME AREA" FOR SUCH EXPENDITURE WOULD BE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT SECURED BASE. HE CONCEDED
THAT CORAL HARBOR WAS ONE OF SITES LOOKED AT BY ADVISERS
FOR SUCH A BASE BUT ADDED THAT NO NEGOTIATIONS HAD YET
BEEN ENTERED INTO. CITING LACK OF RESOURCES, HE CLAIMED
THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OTHER EXPANSION OF DEFENSE
MILITARY OPERATIONS IN 1976.
WEISS

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Message Attributes

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